



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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CALLING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP LOCAL STUDENTS

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – The Air Force STARBASE® La Luz Academy is looking for volunteers to help high school students by providing technical guidance and feedback for students' work on multi-year, real-world research and development activities.

Students enrolled in the Students Planning And Conducting Engineering (SPACE) Flight are divided into teams that select a topic, design a project, and determine the materials needed to conduct their research and development activities. Volunteers can be community or government members.

The academy is an education outreach program sponsored by the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). The laboratory offers resources in the form of equipment and facilities as available, as well as those volunteers working at the laboratory who serve as technical advisors to the teams.

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Using Systems Engineering Methodology, each team accomplishes a full-scale research and development activity. Teams begin by completing a context diagram which identifies the scope and nature of the activity. The initial review is briefed to a SPACE review team that then authorizes the continuation of the student team's research and development activity. Midway through the activity, each team must undergo a critical review when they present their progress to the same SPACE review team.

Volunteers provide technical assistance to each team, and teachers can elect to implement the project as part of the classroom curriculum or as an after-school activity. Under the guidance of teachers and volunteer technical advisors, student teams research topics, develop projects, conduct tests, and collect and analyze data.

Students present their findings at the annual AF STARBASE® La Luz SPACE Symposium, where teams present formal briefings and technical demonstrations. State and district education administrators; school principals; AFRL scientists, engineers, and senior management; representatives from the New Mexico congressional delegation; state agencies; and other participating agencies and organizations are invited to the presentations.

A volunteer orientation session will be held September 22, 2005. For more information, contact the academy at (505) 846-6936 or AFSTARBASELaLuz@Kirtland.af.mil.